Explore the Appomattox River
A Virginia State Scenic River

Miles by mile, the Appomattox River Trail connects our neighborhoods and communities and gives us opportunities to enjoy and protect the river. The trail opened in 2017 and expands while providing increased opportunities for physical activity and wellness. It even helps attract businesses and individuals that will make our region stronger and more prosperous.
The Appomattox River from the dam at Lake Claude to the confluence with the James River in Hopewell is a designated Virginia Scenic River that provides a scenic and natural setting for both fishing and boating activities. It is a popular destination for anglers and boaters, as well as birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts. The river is a designated Scenic River, meaning it possesses outstanding scenic, natural, and historical characteristics. You can still see the culture and history of the river with the visible remnant of a lock, dam, and canal.

The western/copper portion of the Appomattox River from the dam at Lake Claude to the confluence with the James River in Petersburg can be very remote and isolated. High water levels and siltation issues can create challenges throughout the year. If you are planning a trip on this portion of the river, it is recommended to contact the Appomattox River Authority for current conditions and safety information.

Fishing

The Appomattox River contains a wide range of species, including smallmouth and largemouth bass, northern redbreast, bluegill, flathead, crappie, pickerel, and hybrid striped bass. Fishing for these species can be excellent, providing opportunities for anglers of all skill levels.

Boating

The Appomattox River is a great place for boating, offering a variety of recreational opportunities. The river is suitable for both motorized and non-motorized activities, including paddling, kayaking, canoeing, and rafting. It is a popular destination for birdwatching, canoeing, fishing, and is the trailhead for the 1.5-mile paved trail of the Appomattox Riverside Park. Picnic shelters and porta-johns are available.

Water Safety

The river is not a place to relax and is dangerous. Please follow all boating rules and regulations to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience on the river.

To Prevent Problems:
- Wear a life jacket. If paddling, wear a helmet.
- Always wear a life jacket when on the water.
- Wear a warm suit in cold, high water.
- Carry enough food and water for the trip.
- Race paddle alone.
- Do not attempt to race the weather.
- Use supplemental boat flotation.
- Know and prepare for the weather.
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- Be aware of the risks.
- Call 911

Whitewater Classification Chart

1. Class I
   Long and/or fast rapids; navigation can be challenging. Scouting is highly recommended.

2. Class II
   Long and/or fast rapids, following each other, with some potential hazards. Navigating can be challenging. Scouting is highly recommended.

3. Class III
   Moderate rapids where a continuous scouting would be required. Navigating can be challenging. Scouting is highly recommended.

4. Class IV
   Difficult Long rapids; waves powerful, irregular; dangerous rocks; boiling eddies; powerful and precise maneuvering required.

5. Class V
   Extremely Difficult
   Rapid flow, powerfull, irregular; dangerous rocks; boiling eddies; powerful and precise maneuvering required.

6. Class VI
   Extremely Difficult
   Rapid flow, powerfull, irregular; dangerous rocks; boiling eddies; powerful and precise maneuvering required.

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